

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A fan comprising:

a motor; and

a fan blade operatively connected to said motor, said fan blade including

at least two longitudinal slats, each said longitudinal slat comprising a longitudinal length, a width and a thickness, said longitudinal length being several times longer than said width, said width being several times longer than said thickness, said longitudinal slats being positioned side by side with their said widths being in the same plane to define a generally planar fan blade of an overall width generally equal to the sum of said widths, an overall thickness generally equal to said thickness and an overall length generally equal to said longitudinal length;

at least one hole a transverse through-hole constructed through an interior of each of said at least two longitudinal slats across said width thereof, said transverse through-holes in respective said slats being colinear with each other when said slats are positioned side-by-side; and

a dowel placed through said hole transverse through-holes to secure said at least two longitudinal slats firmly together with their said widths in the same plane.

2. (currently amended) The fan of claim 1 wherein said dowel further comprises a wooden rod dimensioned to fit in ~~at least one~~ said hole.

3. (currently amended) The fan of claim 2 wherein said wooden rod is secured in said ~~at least one~~ hole with wood glue.

4. (previously amended) The fan of claim 2 wherein said wooden rod further comprises splines or grooves.

5. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 further comprising a threaded portion on one end of said dowel for receiving a cap that secures said dowel in said hole.

6. (previously amended) The fan of claim 5 wherein said dowel further comprises a fixed cap rigidly secured to one end of said dowel.

7. (previously amended) The fan of claim 6 wherein said screw on cap is designed to retract said screw on cap and said fixed cap into said slats when screwed on to said threaded portion.

8. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 further comprising end caps for securing said dowel in said hole.

9. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 wherein said slats are constructed from a soft wood.

10. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 wherein both ends of said dowel are threaded to receive threaded end caps.

11. (previously amended) The fan of claim 10 wherein said threaded caps are designed to receive a tool for securing said threaded end caps to said threaded ends of said dowel.

12. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 wherein a material is placed over exposed ends of said dowel such that said dowel is enclosed within said slats.

13. (currently amended) A fan, ~~said blade~~ comprising:
a motor; and
a fan blade **operatively connected to said motor, said fan blade**
including

a series of **thin longitudinal slats positioned edge-wise**
parallel slates to each other **in the same plane**;

a hole running approximately perpendicular to said series of
thin longitudinal slats through an interior portion of said slats **from one**
edge to the other; and

a wooden dowel configured to be received in said hole such that
said series of slats are secured together **in the same plane to form a fan**
blade generally equal to the sum of the widths of said thin
longitudinal slats.

14. (previously amended) The fan of claim 13 further comprising an adhesive for securing said wooded dowel in said hole.

15. (previously amended) The fan of claim 13 wherein said wooden dowel further comprises grooves.

16. (previously amended) The fan of claim 13 wherein said slats are wooden.

17. (previously amended) A fan comprising:
a motor; and
a fan blade **operatively connected to said motor, said fan blade**
including
at least two longitudinal wooden slats;

at least one hole constructed **width-wise** through an interior region of said at least two said longitudinal wooden slats; and

a metal dowel configured to be received in said at least one hole holes such that said at least two longitudinal slats are held firmly together width-wise in the same plane.

18. (currently amended) The fan of claim 17 wherein said **dowel comprises a metal dowel including an** ~~further comprises~~ expanded end portion.

19. (previously amended) The fan of claim 18 wherein said expanded end portion is received by a threaded end on said metal dowel.

20. (previously amended) The fan of claim 17 further comprising end caps for securing said metal dowel in said at least one hole.